

Intelligent Systems Research and Development Support (ISRDS) requirement –Questions and Answers #3

ISRDS Questions and Answers in response to the Request for Proposal are below.

Question 1:

RFP Instructions Sections H.2 and H.10: There appears to be an incongruity between sections H.2 Task Order Procedure and H.10 Organizational Conflicts of Interest. In the former, the task order procedure implies that proposals must be submitted in all situations, whereas the latter para. (c)(1) states "NASA shall not unilaterally require the Contractor to prepare such specifications or statements of work under this Contract." Please clarify whether the successful contractor may decline work without issue in order to be compliant with the incorporated OCI plan.

Government Response 1:

There is no incongruity between sections H.2 and H.10. Section H.2 prescribes the Task Order Procedure. Section H.10 addresses Organizational Conflicts of Interest, and includes the statement that "NASA shall not unilaterally require the Contractor to prepare such specifications or statements of work under this contract." Accordingly, any decision to prepare such specifications or statements of work under this contract shall be bilateral.

Question 2:

RFP Instructions Section H.10 Organizational Conflicts of Interest: During the evaluation process, would an Offeror be scored lower to any degree if strict adherence to the proposed OCI provisions precludes the use of teammates an Offeror does, in fact, possess to bid requirements?

Government Response 2:

As prescribed in Section M of the RFP, the Government will evaluate each Offeror's Mission Suitability proposal, including the contract performance described in that proposal, which performance must strictly adhere to the Organizational Conflicts of Interest requirements set forth in the RFP, the Federal Acquisition Regulations, and applicable law. If an Offeror proposes a method of contract performance that fails to comply with those Organizational Conflicts of Interest requirements, its proposal will be evaluated accordingly.

Question 3:

RFP Instructions Section L.7.(a).A.3 Response to Case Study B: So that Offerors may properly respond to the Case Study B, if possible please provide percentages of interns hired by the Government and percentages hired by the contractor for the summer intern programs (historically speaking).

Government Response 3:

Under case study B, Section L.7.(a).A.3, Response to Case Study B, the Offeror shall describe its approach for managing the program including the schedule, recruiting and documentation requirements, based on the number of interns specified in Case Study B.

Question 4:

RFP Instructions Section L.7.(b) (p.70) Past Performance Proposal:

Subparagraph (1) states "As a minimum, the Past Performance Proposal shall include the following: (1) A list of not more than two (2) relevant government contracts and one (1) industry contract, each in excess of \$5M, completed no more than five (5) years ago or on-going involving related types of effort."

Section L.7.(b).B.2 (p.73) Past Performance Reference Information states "Each Offeror and any proposed major subcontractor shall send a blank Past Performance Questionnaire to the cognizant Contracting Officer or the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative of no more than three (3) relevant completed (completed within the last five years) or active (underway at least one year) contracts, of which at least one (1) must be a relevant (NASA, other federal, state, or local) government contract."

Please clarify whether the total number of past performance citations is limited to three (3) for the entire proposal, or if the Government seeks as a minimum three (3) citations from the Prime and three (3) from each major subcontractor. For example, if there are three major subcontractors, does the Government expect a total of twelve (12) past performance citations – three (3) for the Prime and a total of nine (9) for major subcontractor (3 per subcontractor).

Government Response 4:

Part I Response:

RFP Instructions Section L.7.(b) (p.70) - In the Offeror's Past Performance (Volume II) response the Government is requesting a list of not more than two (2) relevant government contracts and one (1) industry contract, each in excess of \$5M, completed no more than five (5) years ago or on-going, involving related types of effort for the Prime and any "major subcontractor". "Major subcontractors," for purposes of this solicitation, is defined as subcontracting dollars of \$5M or more covering a performance period of five (5) years.

For example, in the Past Performance written response if a team is comprised of the offeror (Prime) and one major subcontractor then a list of three (3) contracts will be received for the offeror (Prime) and three (3) contracts will be received for its one subcontractor for a total of six (6). If there are three major subcontractors, the Government expects a total of twelve (12) past performance citations.

Part II Response:

Section L.7.(b).B.2 (p.73) – In addition, the Offeror and major subcontractor shall complete Section 1 of the Past Performance Questionnaire identified in Section J, “List of Documents, Exhibits, and Attachments,” for each reference identified in paragraph 2 below.

“2. Each Offeror and any proposed major subcontractor shall send a blank Past Performance Questionnaire to the cognizant Contracting Officer or the Contracting Officer’s Technical Representative of no more than three (3) relevant completed (completed within the last five years) or active (underway at least one year) contracts...”

For example, if a team is comprised of the offeror (Prime) and one major subcontractor then three (3) Past Performance Questionnaires will be received for the offeror (Prime) and three (3) Past Performance Questionnaires will be received for its one subcontractor for a total of six (6). If there are three major subcontractors, the Government expects a total of twelve (12) past performance questionnaires.

Question 5:

RFP Instructions Section L.7.(b).B.2 (p.73) Past Performance Reference Information: This paragraph states *“The Offeror is responsible for ensuring that the respondent completes and submits the questionnaire directly to the NASA Ames Research Center Contracting Officer no later than 10 days prior to proposal due date.”* May Offerors contact the NASA Contracting Officer in advance to ensure receipt of questionnaires from references?

Government Response 5:

The Offeror may contact the Contracting Officer via email Natalie.R.LeMar@nasa.gov to ensure receipt of questionnaires from references.

Question 6:

Statement of Work (J.1 (a), Attachment 1)) Technology Area 4 Robust Software Engineering: The last paragraph in this section *states “The main products expected from both sub-areas are advanced software tools.”* What are the two sub-areas to which the Government is referring in this statement?

Government Response 6:

The two sub-areas referred to are Constellation and Aeronautics, as stated in the following sentence: “Robust software engineering is focused on the development and infusion of advanced software engineering tools into NASA missions, principally within Constellation and Aeronautics”.

Question 7:

Statement of Work (J.1 (a), Attachment 1)) Technology Area 2 Discovery and Systems Health: Given that the previous Technology Area 2 is Collaborative and

Assistant Systems, please clarify that Discovery and Systems Health should be Technology Area 3.

Government Response 7:

Discovery and Systems Health is Technology Area 3. See Amendment 1.

Question 8:

RFP Instructions Section L.7.(b) (p.70) states: As a minimum, the Past Performance Proposal shall include the following: (1) A list of not more than two (2) relevant government contracts and one (1) industry contract, each in excess of \$5M, completed no more than five (5) years ago or on-going, involving related types of effort for the Offeror and each major subcontractor.

Section L.7.(b).B.2 (p.73) states: Each Offeror and any proposed major subcontractor shall send a blank Past Performance Questionnaire to the cognizant Contracting Officer or the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative of no more than three (3) relevant completed (completed within the last *five* years) or active (underway at least one year) contracts, of which at least one (1) must be a relevant (NASA, other federal, state, or local) government contract.

Question: If a major subcontractor has a Past Performance Reference that is in excess of \$5M, completed no more than five (5) years ago or on-going, involving related types of effort, but this active contract has been ongoing for only six months can this Past Performance be submitted as part of both our Past Performance Proposal and as a Past Performance Questionnaire?

Government Response 8:

If a major subcontractor has a Past Performance Reference that is in excess of \$5M, completed no more than five (5) years ago or on-going, involving related types of effort, but this active contract has been ongoing only six months (not underway at least one year) this Past Performance can be submitted as part of the Offeror's Past Performance Proposal. However, due to the fact that this contract has only been underway for six (6) months (and not a year as stated in the solicitation) this past performance reference would not be meet the requirements of the Past Performance Questionnaire in Section L.7.(b).B.2.

If the Offeror or major subcontractor does not have enough references to meet these Past Performance Questionnaire requirements stated in Section L.7.(b).B.2, references shall be provided to the maximum extent possible.